

Mystic Lake and Middle Pond Barnstable Barnstable County Cape Cod Watershed Latitude: 41.67933 N Longitude: 70.41636 W



257 Acres

Depth: 20 Feet Average 42 Feet Maximum

Primary Gamefish:

Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass

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General Information:

Mystic Lake and Middle Pond (total area 257 acres) are two natural kettlehole ponds connected by a shallow channel and have similar characteristics. Mystic Lake, 149 acres, has an average depth of 20 feet and a maximum depth of 42 feet. Middle Pond, 108 acres, also has an average depth of 20 feet, but maximum depth is 33 feet. The bottom of these ponds are primarily sand with scattered areas of gravel and rubble. Transparency is very good, extending to 18 feet, and aquatic vegetation is sparse. The ponds 4.7 miles of shoreline (Mystic Lake =2.5 miles, Mystic Pond=2.2 miles) are moderately developed with seasonal and permanent residences. These ponds together with Hamblin Pond (just to the south) are collectively known as the Indian Ponds or Cotuit Ponds. The ponds are fed by groundwater and cranberry bog drainage and serve as the headwaters of the Marstons Mills River.

Access:

Mystic Lake and Middle Pond are located just west of Route 149 and just north of Hamblin Pond. Public access to Mystic Lake is limited to a small roadside area off Race Lane and through the connection to Middle Pond. There is an unimproved town of Barnstable ramp located at the south end of Middle Pond suitable for canoes, cartop boats and possibly lightweight trailered boats. To get to the access take Mistic Drive from Route 149 around the south end of Hamblin Pond. The access is on the south end of Middle Pond, at the end of Flume Avenue. *There is a 10 horsepower limit on boat motors enforced by the town.* The channel which connects the two ponds is only about a foot deep. As a result, those planning to fish Mystic Lake should plan on using a canoe or very shallow draft craft. This shallow access keeps recreational pressure on Mystic Lake quite light, even during the summer.

Management History:

Mystic Lake was surveyed on August 16, 1914 and yellow and white perch, black bass, pickerel catfish and herring were reported. Before 1948, the ponds were stocked with brook trout, Chinook salmon, smallmouth bass, white perch and yellow perch. An August 9, 1948 survey reported white sucker, white perch, yellow perch, pumpkinseeds, chain pickerel, smallmouth bass, bluegill, banded killifish and bridle shiners and abundant alewife fry.

Fish Populations:

There have been no recent fisheries surveys conducted on these lakes. A 1978 survey recorded 11 species: largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, pumpkinseed, white perch, yellow perch, white sucker, banded killifish, brown bullhead, golden shiner and alewife (sea-run). The alewives run up the Marstons Mills River from Nantucket Sound via Cotuit Bay.

Fishing:

Due to the poor access and relatively light fishing pressure (particularly on Mystic Lake) these two ponds should offer some excellent fishing opportunities. At the time of the last survey both smallmouth and largemouth bass populations were healthy and there were considerable numbers of fish in the 12 to 18 inch range. The best resource in the ponds at the time of the last sample was a bonanza of yellow and white perch. Large numbers over 10 inches long were recorded. Other nearby ponds include Hamblin Pond just to the south and Shubael Pond to the east.

Updated: December 19, 2007 S.T.H.